

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 24 and 30. Thus, claims 15-23 and 25-29 are pending.

Claim 15 is rejected as failing to satisfy the definiteness requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 15-23 and 30 are rejected on prior art grounds. Claims 24-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and amended to overcome the § 112 rejections.

By this Amendment, Applicant has rewritten independent claim 15 as a combination of original claims 15 and 24 and amended claims 25-28 to depend on claim 15.¹ Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments should be entered since they do not raise new issues which would require further consideration and/or search.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 15, as well as dependent claims 16-23 and 25-29, should now be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited.

¹ The § 112 rejections of claim 15 are based on the amendments to claim 15 in the August 1, 2003 Amendment (i.e., original claim 15 was not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first or second paragraph). Thus, amended claim 15 no longer contains the claim language which the Examiner maintains does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/806,414

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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